CHAPTEE I

WHO SHOULD BE CALLED A JEW?

THE answer to this question is by no means as simple as it might seem at first. It depends on what is taken as criterion —religion, nationality, or race.

(1) RELIGIOUS JUDAISM

Adopting the criterion of religion, and including all those who were born of parents professing the Jewish religion, and who have not lost or severed their connexion with the Jewish religious community, world-Jewry amounts at present to nearly 16 millions. A person's religion can be easily ascertained where it is officially inquired after at censuses or birth-registrations, and where legal rules govern changes of religion; less easily, where no cognizance is taken of it by the State, *i.e.* where it is not mentioned in official documents, but is treated as a private matter, more or less like membership of an association. There a man's religious affiliations may be open to doubt, and secession from the religious community may be merely implied, *e.g.* in the United States tens of thousands of Jews regularly attend Christian Science services. Similarly in Soviet Eussia, many Jews, who have neither formally ner informally left the Jewish

religious community, now declare themselves Russians by nationality, though previously they used to register as Jews, and, in most cases, by this change probably mean to sever also their connexion with the Jewish religion; their number is very considerable, and seems to be on the increase. Similarly imcertain are the religious affiliations of Jews wholly indifferent, or even averse, to the Jewish, or